

## Nov. 22 lecture will discuss why our college is named after politician George Brown

Which story do you like about our college's namesake? a) George Brown was heroic young immigrant to Canada who rose up to become a wealthy businessman. b) George Brown was a powerful politician who fought for human rights, public education and against slavery. Or c) George Brown was a tragic victim of workplace violence.

Well all these stories are true. George Brown, who lived from 1818-1880, was an important Father of Confederation, a Liberal politician, journalist, and founder of *The Globe* newspaper in Toronto (now *The Globe and Mail*)....and he died after being shot in his office by a former employee.

His complex and fascinating life, and why our college bears his name, will be examined in a free lecture at George Brown on Thursday, Nov. 22 entitled: "Who Was George Brown and Why Did They Name a College After Him Anyway?"

The lecture will be delivered by Karolyn Smardz Frost, Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society, and author of *In the Land of Glory* which was recently nominated for the Governor General's Award.

After the lecture a panel will comment, including Philip Crawley, publisher of the *Globe and Mail*, Eugene Harrigan, George Brown's Vice President of Corporate Services, faculty member Pamela Idahosa, and Lauren Rumiell, a student in the Assaulted Women and Children's Counsellor/Advocate Program.

The lecture, which is part of the college's 40th Anniversary celebration and follows the cake cutting on Nov. 22, is being held in Room 128A at St. James Campus from 12:15 -2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be available for audience members.



A bus has been chartered to take staff and students from Casa Loma to St. James for the lecture. It leaves 11:45 from the main entrance of 146 Kendal Avenue.

Staff and students planning to attend should register through our Staff Development calendar on George Brown's website.

Getting up close and personal with George Brown: Professor Brenda Bennett (left) and Practical Nursing student Sharon Heenan (right) take a close look at a portrait of George Brown (centre) - our college's namesake. A lecture on Nov. 22 will also take a close look at George Brown's life - and why he was chosen for our college.

# PEN lecturer embraces George Brown's diversity

Gordana Icevska grew up and worked as a journalist in a part of the world where ethnicity was a life and death issue. Now, as George Brown's new PEN Lecturer in Residence, she finds herself at ease in the college's comfortable diversity.

"I didn't have to make an effort to prove I fit. I could be myself..." she says.

Icevska has covered diversity, politics and the Balkan wars as a reporter, correspondent and analyst for international media outlets, including BBC, CNN, and Time Magazine. She worked for Macedonia's first independent newspaper and was editor of its first business

magazine. She has written for the San Antonio Express News in the U.S., online media, CBC television and radio and various Toronto newspapers. She is also the recipient of several awards for investigative journalism and co-author of four books.

Icevska's work at George Brown is sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences as part of PEN Canada's Writers-in-exile program. PEN is an international organization that works on behalf of writers who have been forced into silence for writing the truth as they see it.

George Brown News invited Icevska to write about her experience at the college.



By Gordana Icevska

In 1999, after the Kosovo crisis — which I covered as a reporter — I spent months with the refugees who left their homes and came to Macedonia. Then I went to North America and worked for six months with San Antonio Express News in Texas.

On my first day in the newsroom, I was assigned to do a story about a refugee who saved a drowning woman. By coincidence, that refugee — a man named Agron — was from Kosovo and had recently arrived in Texas.

I wrote several stories about Agron and his family. They were all extraordinary, strong people, but I was most amazed by Agron's energy.

He picked up English quickly, and then started taking classes that would help him to go to college, and at the same time he worked a full time job. He was eager to learn and explore his adopted country. Agron never appeared sad, upset or tired, although he admitted it was not easy to fit in the new society. It was like discovering a new planet for him.

A few years later, I was in same position as Agron, starting my new life in Canada. Although I traveled and worked abroad before, I also found I had a lot to learn. The hardest part in the process of learning was (and still is) — just as Agron said — adopting the new world and making yourself fit into the society. At the same time I want to be me, because I can not delete the decades of life I spent somewhere else...

Is this easy? No. Despite all my efforts to blend in, my accent, my behavior, even the way I say hello, and I shake hands very often betray me and my status as a newcomer.

This September, when I came to George Brown I discovered something new: I didn't have to make an effort to prove I belonged. I could be myself and I found that students and teachers welcomed me just as I am. Soon I figured out that I'm not the only one who is different: George Brown has students, teachers and staff with various backgrounds, people from all over the world who respect differences in others.

Unfortunately, at least from my experience, this formula doesn't work in all layers or Canadian society. But I'm glad I have a chance to share my experience with people of George Brown College. It's good to know you are not alone and you are not the only one who believes that making a difference is an important task and every small step counts.

Icevska would like to invite readers to share their opinion and discuss any issue she has raised in an ongoing public discussion on George Brown's website, please e-mail her at [gicevska@georgebrown.ca](mailto:gicevska@georgebrown.ca). Submissions and other examples of Icevska's writing will be posted at [http://www.georgebrown.ca/News/Pen\\_Lecturer\\_2007.aspx](http://www.georgebrown.ca/News/Pen_Lecturer_2007.aspx). She is available for classroom sessions, workshops and specialized presentations for students and staff in all areas.



**HALLOWEEN HEROICS** — Dayna Murray of the Faculty of Technology Industry Liaison Office came to work on Oct. 31 as Peter Pan, complete with sword. Other staff went about their normal business as comic book characters, witches, and sporting figures. For a gallery of staff and student Halloween costumes go to the News section of George Brown's website.

# 14-year-olds clarify career goals on college visit

When she was little Shantal Jones wanted to be a singer and dancer. Then she thought she would like to be a police officer, like her father. Now at 14, partly because she likes working on her own and writing stories and poems, she imagines working in the media, maybe eventually as a television talk show host.

For Shantal and other grade 9 students from Woodbine Junior High School, the gap between career dreams and career reality became a bit narrower after spending a day talking with staff and students at George Brown on Nov. 7.

The visit, coordinated with partner schools by the college's Office of Special Projects and Community Partnerships as part of Take Your Kids to Work Day, introduced the students to some hard realities of working life — college graduates earn much more than those with high school diplomas and many jobs require post-secondary education.

After visiting the college all the Woodbine students told their teacher they wanted to finish high school and go on to post-secondary education, says Project Officer Rosa Duran, who co-ordinated the student visit.

"The George Brown staff and students who volunteered to spend time with these students may have made a huge impact on their lives," she says.

George Brown News was proud to give Chantal her first writing assignment. What follows is her report about her visit to George Brown.

Grade 9 student Shantal Jones (left) talks with Erin Gudgeon of the Assistant Cook Extended Training program — finding out about her job as part of Take Your Kids to Work Day at George Brown on Nov. 7.

*By Shantal Jones*

The day started with a short introduction. After that, each student was given a worker to shadow for the first part of the day. In my experience, Erin Gudgeon was a phenomenal mentor. She seemed to have a firm grasp on her field of work and was kind enough to answer the questions I had with meaningful information.

Erin also showed me the many other fields of work you can get into if you attend GBC. She showed me that you could be a chef, nurse, and many more things. Erin also took me on a tour of the campus so I could better understand how the college worked. I had the privilege of seeing the chef's work places and where they learn to cook from certain recipes.

For nurses, there is a special department where there are robots that can be programmed to have an illness and a student nurse would have to diagnose the robot correctly. There's a woman, a man, and a baby robot that can all be programmed to have a serious illness. There is also a practice room for beginning nurse students to practice in. Some student nurses are given real people to practice on.

During the lunch hour, there was a presentation by Susan Heximer. She also told us about the different fields of work and how you can

achieve your goals. She also said that students were never too young to start looking at colleges. She said that you had to have at least a bit of an idea of what you're going to do with your life and how to pursue your career. I was surprised to learn that there are only about 41 per cent of students actually graduating high school. Susan said that a lot of jobs require a college education. So, if you drop out of college, there's a 70 per cent chance of not getting a job that can pay the rent. She informed us that if you have a college education you would make at least \$15,000 to \$25,000 more than a non-college graduate. By her saying that, she got me motivated to graduate high school and get a college degree. So I thank her for that.

At the end of the day Rosa (Duran) made us go on a scavenger hunt all around the school. We got to talk to some of the students and find out some of their interests. I really had a good time doing that.

Before we all got sent home some of the employees gave us all mementos to remember the school by. They gave us a George Brown College calendar, bags, and a few other things that all of the visitors enjoyed. We thank all the employees at George Brown College for their generosity and their patience.



# President Anne Sado

All of us who work in Ontario's colleges know that our system is a crucial driver of Ontario's economic engine. But if the success we've achieved supplying businesses across the province with skilled workers over the past 40 years is to keep pace with the coming spike in industry demand, public and private sector investment in colleges needs to accelerate at a much greater pace.

While recent headlines about job losses — particularly in the auto sector — are very real, they don't tell the full employment story. Yes, some jobs are being eliminated in some sectors, but our economy faces a much greater strain from shortages of skilled labour.

This looming shortage will be brought on by a wave of retirements starting in 2011, when the first of the baby boomers turns 65. At that time, the number of young people available to replace them will also flatten out. In addition to a demographic shift, business conditions will continue to create increased demand for skilled workers. Nationwide, the Conference Board of Canada predicts the country could be short one million workers by 2020 due to an aging population and declining birth rates.

Meanwhile, more than 200,000 people in Ontario currently aren't working because they don't have the necessary skills and education for the jobs that are available.

And that's where we can fill the gap. In fact, George Brown is already working with many industries to address the impact of skills shortages.

For instance, over the next 10 years the growth rate for construction in the Greater Toronto Area will be higher than for all other industries in the region. Anticipating this, we recently introduced Ontario's only four-year Bachelor of Construction Science and Management degree program in conjunction with the Toronto Construction Association.

But all you have to do is look around the college to know that we are bursting at the seams trying to meet the demand for our services. With our current funding constraints, we can barely keep up. Colleges like George Brown require major expansion and that can only come with increased funding. We have never seen the kind of stress on the system we're currently feeling.

With the provincial election behind us, the call for the provincial government to increase its support for colleges must grow louder. We are at a crucial turning point. We need to impress upon the new provincial government that an increased investment must be made in Ontario's colleges if we are to have the capacity to meet future needs.

I hope you will lend your voice to this critical issue to ensure our college system is adequately supported to help address these challenges. The government will respond to the voices of its constituents, and not many voices are likely to be as strong and passionate as ours.

Next issue: The skills strategy proposed by Ontario's colleges



## Homecoming 2007

Former students and staff came back to college on Saturday, Oct. 20 for George Brown's 40th Anniversary Homecoming. Our guests were welcomed by senior college staff, shown a nostalgia-inducing video of the college over four decades, went on tours of our facilities, and relaxed over drinks and snacks at receptions at both Casa Loma and St. James Campuses. 40th Anniversary celebrations continue with a birthday party at all college locations at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 22. Staff and students can sing happy birthday to the college and have a piece of birthday cake. To see more Homecoming 2007 photos go to: <http://www.georgebrown.ca/homecoming/photos.aspx>



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Editor: Story ideas? Contact Editor Neil McGillivray at [nmcgillivray@georgebrown.ca](mailto:nmcgillivray@georgebrown.ca)  
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